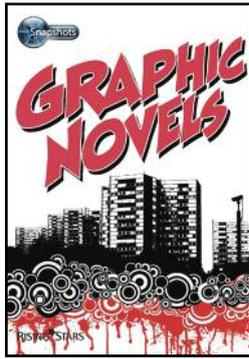


GRAPHIC NOVELS

Teacher's notes



Introduction

Description of content

Graphic Novels looks at the world of books that tell stories not only through words but that make great use of pictures to tell a story. It begins with the first graphic novel, *The Silver Surfer*, and then explores the origins of graphic novels – the comic. Some well-known graphic novels are then looked at, including reasons why they became best-sellers. The text then moves on to the current forms of the graphic novel such as Manga and how books have been adapted into graphic novels (*Artemis Fowl* and *Alex Rider*) before looking at true-life works, including the story of Martin Luther King. Finally, it explores how far graphic novels have come from their beginnings and have moved from fantasy superhero characters to realistic characters and plots. Features of the text include a web page, a diary, author files, an advertisement, annotated pages, letters, a book review and an author profile. There is also a glossary and an index.

Key words

pictures, appeared, library, libraries, character(s), popular, series, different, based, comic, author, history, famous, superhero, superheroes, people

Reading issues

Some children may find the website on pages 10 and 11 challenging. Encourage them to look at both pages as if they are one single screen on a computer.

The use of a handwriting style of font in the diary on page 16 may challenge some students. Support them by reading the pages aloud together.

The layout of the advertisement on pages 22 and 23 may challenge some students. Look at both pages as one spread before beginning and talk about what type of text these pages are before deciding where to begin reading.

Starting points

How to introduce the book

Look together at the cover. Ask: *Where is the book title? Who is the author? What do you know about graphic novels?*

Discuss any graphic novels the students have read and the sort of features they have in common. *What information do you think will be in this book?*

Look at the contents page and read the chapter headings together. Ask the children if the chapter headings give any clues to the contents of each chapter. Ask them to predict what each chapter might be about. Explain that most non-fiction books don't need to be read from the beginning in sequence but can be dipped into to find specific information. Turn to the 'Zooming in' information on page 6. Explain that this page gives a snapshot of what the whole book contains. Ask them to find *The Silver Surfer* and then look at each illustration and its heading in a clockwise order. Ask them if they think the chapters can be read in any order. *Which chapter do you think would be the most interesting?* Ask them to find and read the chapter.

Turn to page 5 and read the text together and the focus questions. Ask the children to suggest the most effective way of finding answers to these questions. If they do not suggest using the index, turn to it and demonstrate how to use an index to find the appropriate page references, then challenge them to find the answers quickly. Encourage the children to turn to page 8 and read the book from the beginning.

Differentiation (Copymasters)

For Copymaster 1, explain to students who need help that 'graph' can be used as a noun, and by adding the suffix 'ic' as an adjective. It will help them to think of words that use 'graph' as a suffix if you spend a few moments brainstorming words they are familiar with that have 'graph' as part of the word. Ask higher ability students to write their own definitions of the words they find in a dictionary at the bottom of the page.

For Copymaster 2, mask the words in the panel at the foot of the page and ask more able children to research labels to use from the book. A further challenge could be to add other labels independently. Support students who need help by providing them with one of the labels and using a process of elimination to fill in the remaining ones.

For Copymaster 3, Encourage students to use the index to find where to look for the information. Challenge higher ability students to write author files for other titles in the book, for example *King*, *Artemis Fowl*.

Extension

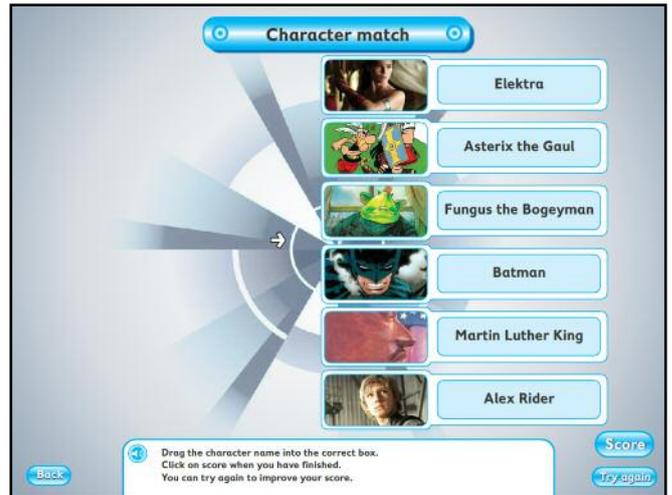
Ask the students to use the internet to find out more about the writers and their graphic novels. Information about Alan Moore can be found on www.alanmoorefansite.com; Raymond Briggs can be explored on www.toonhound.com/briggs.htm; information about Anthony Horowitz and the Alex Rider novels can be found on www.alexrider.com.

Encourage them to use the information to add more detail to the author files.

Ask students to rewrite one of their own stories in the style of a graphic novel.

Activity answers

Character match



True or False

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1) True | 2) False | 3) True | 4) False |
| 5) True | 6) True | 7) False | 8) False |

Multiple choice

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1) c | 2) a | 3) b | 4) d |
|------|------|------|------|

Word families

Name: _____ Date: _____

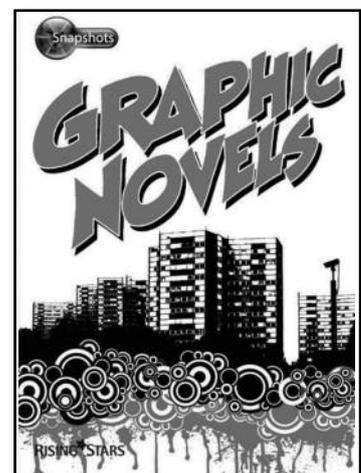
Graphic Novels

'Graph' is a word that comes from Greek. It is used in English to make words about drawing or writing.

Write your own definition of these words then check them with a dictionary.

	My definition	Dictionary definition
graphic		
photograph		
autograph		
biography		
autobiography		
choreography		
geography		
paragraph		

Now use a dictionary to find other words with 'graph' in them. Write them in the space below.



What's on the page?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Look at pages 26 and 27. Now label this page from King.



large panel

black and white artwork

frame

narrow panel

speech bubble

small panel

Author file

Name: _____ Date: _____

Look at pages 18 and 19. Now find information in the book to write these other author files.

Author File: Raymond Briggs

Country: _____

Book: Fungus the Bogeyman

About:

Fact:

Author File: Anthony Horowitz

Country: _____

Book: _____

About:

Fact:

Author File: Alan Moore

Country: UK

Book: _____

About:

Fact:

Author File: Marjane Satrepi

Country: _____

Book: _____

About:

Fact: